

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.0001 to about 30% by weight of a salt of malonic acid which is present as a half neutralized and a fully neutralized acid in a molar ratio ranging from about 1000:1 to about 1:1000, respectively;
  - (ii) from about 1 to about 99.9% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable carrier;
- wherein the composition exhibits a Flexibility Value greater than 1 in the Porcine Skin Test.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio is about 2:1 to about 1:200.

Claim 4 (original): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the salt has a cationic counterion to malonate which is an inorganic cation selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium and combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the cationic counterion to malonate is an organic cation having from 2 to 1,000 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimine, triethanolamine, diethanolamine, propanolamine,

monoethanolamine, methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, isopropylamine, butylamine, isobutylamine, t-butylamine, pentylamine, isopentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine, cyclopentylamine, norbornylamine, octylamine, ethylhexylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, pyrrolidone, amino acids (lysine, arginine, alanine, glutamine, histidine, glycine), 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, dimethylethanolamine, tris(hydroxymethyl)amino methane and combinations thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for controlling signs of aging comprising:  
providing a cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.0001 to about 30% by weight of a salt of malonic acid which is present as a half neutralized and a fully neutralized acid in a molar ratio ranging from about 1000:1 to about 1:1000, respectively;
- (ii) from about 1 to about 99.9% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable carrier;

wherein the composition exhibits a Flexibility Value greater than 1 in the Porcine Skin Test; and  
applying the cosmetic composition to the skin.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the signs of aging that are controlled are softness, suppleness and flexibility.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the salt of malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 15%.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the salt of malonic acid has a cation selected from the group consisting of an ammonium, dimethylethanolammonium and tris(hydroxymethyl)methane ammonium salt.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the molar ratio is about 2:1 to about 1:200.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt of malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 15%.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt of malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt of malonic acid has a cation selected from the group consisting of an ammonium, dimethylethanolammonium and tris(hydroxymethyl)methane ammonium salt.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt has a cationic counterion to malonate which is an inorganic cation selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the cationic counterion to malonate is an organic cation having from 2 to 1,000 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimine, triethanolamine, diethanolamine, propanolamine, monoethanolamine, methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, isopropylamine, butylamine, isobutylamine, t-butylamine, pentylamine, isopentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine, cyclopentylamine, norbornylamine, octylamine,

**J6829(C)**  
**03-0022-CP/TR**

ethylhexylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, pyrrolidone, amino acids (lysine, arginine, alanine, glutamine, histidine, glycine), 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, dimethylethanolamine, tris(hydroxymethyl)amino methane and combinations thereof.